8

CLAIMS

1.   A method of handling a request from a browser for a web page with a given TLD that an end-user has entered into the browser URL line, comprising the steps of:

5
       (a)   determining whether the URL defines a web page that exists for that TLD;

       (b)   if it does not exist, then providing for a domain name server to automatically direct the browser to at least one web site and not provide an error message;

10   characterised in that the TLD has been erroneously entered by the end-user as a ccTLD instead of a TLD selected from the set of .com and .net TLDs.

2.   The method of Claim 1 in which the erroneous entry involves only one letter being accidentally omitted.

15

3.   The method of Claim 2 in which the ccTLD is selected from the set ".cm", ".om", ".co", ".ne" and ".et".

4.   The method of Claim 1 in which the web site is specifically related to the
20   meaning of the URL.

5.   The method of Claim 1 in which the web site is a general web search site or portal.

25   6.   The method of Claim 1 in which the web site is one of several potential web sites the browser could be directed to, with the actual web-site selected depending on the geographic location of the end-user.

7.   The method of Claim 1 in which a database record is maintained of the traffic
30   brought to the web site to enable traffic based revenue to be calculated.

9

8.   The method of Claim 1 in which a database record is maintained of the click-through traffic from the web site to enable click-through based revenue to be calculated.

5   9.   The method of Claim 1 in which the URL comprises a generic term.

10.   The method of Claim 1 in which a computer instruction is added to a DNS zone file to direct that if the requested domain name is not found in the list of registered names in the DNS zone file, then the unique identification number (IP) of a computer 10   hosting the web site is returned to the end-user's computer.

11.   A Domain Name Server (DNS) that handles a request from a browser for a web page with a given TLD that an end-user has erroneously entered into the browser URL line as a ccTLD instead of a TLD selected from the set of .com and .net TLDs, the DNS 15   being programmed to:
        (a)   determine whether the URL defines a web page that exists for that TLD;
        (b)   if it does not exist, then automatically direct the browser to a web site and
                not provide an error message;
in which the DNS server is a ccTLD DNS.

20

12.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the erroneous entry involves only one letter being accidentally omitted.

13..   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the ccTLD is selected from the set ".cm", ".om", 25   ".co", ".ne" and ".et".

14.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the web site is specifically related to the meaning of the URL.

30   15.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the web site is a general web search site or portal.

16.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the web site is one of several potential web sites the browser could be directed to, with the actual web-site selected depending on the geographic location of the end-user.

5

17.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which a database record is maintained of the traffic brought to the web site to enable traffic based revenue to be calculated.

18.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which a database record is maintained of the click-
10   through traffic from the web site to enable click-through based revenue to be calculated.

19.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which the URL comprises a generic term.

20.   The DNS of Claim 11 in which a computer instruction is added to a DNS zone
15   file to direct that if the requested domain name is not found in the list of registered names in the DNS zone file, then the unique identification number (IP) of a computer hosting the web site is returned to the end-user's computer.